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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/563,089	12/30/2005	Masayuki Sudoh	016912-0214	8137
22428	7590	10/25/2007	EXAMINER NOLAN, JASON MICHAEL	
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			ART UNIT 1626	PAPER NUMBER
		MAIL DATE 10/25/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/563,089	SUDOH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jason M. Nolan, Ph.D.	1626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 2,6 and 12-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2 and 6 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 12 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 2, 6, & 12-14 are pending in the instant application; of which **Claims 2 & 6** are currently amended and withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention, and **Claims 12-14** are new. **Claims 1, 3-5, & 7-11** are canceled.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendments, see Amendment – After Non-Final Rejection, filed 09/12/2007, with respect to **Claims 2, 6, & 12-14** have been fully considered and are entered. The 112-enablement rejection of **Claims 9-11** is been withdrawn per amendment. The 102-prior art rejection of **Claims 3 & 8** is withdrawn per amendment. The ODP rejection of **Claims 3-5 & 8-11** is withdrawn per amendment. The objection to **Claim 10** is withdrawn per amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 1st Paragraph

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 13 & 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while enabling for the treatment of Hepatitis C, does not reasonably provide enablement for treating any and/or all infectious disease caused by hepatitis C, as claimed. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it

pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

As stated in the MPEP 2164.01(a), "There are many factors to be considered when determining whether there is sufficient evidence to support a determination that a disclosure does not satisfy the enablement requirement and whether any necessary experimentation is 'undue'."

In re Wands, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (1988), discusses the following factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure meets the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph:

1. *The nature of the invention;*
2. *The state of the prior art;*
3. *The predictability or lack thereof in the art;*
4. *The amount of direction or guidance present;*
5. *The presence or absence of working examples;*
6. *The breadth of the claims;*
7. *The quantity of experimentation needed; and*
8. *The level of skill in the art*

each of which is discussed in turn below.

The nature of the invention

The nature of the invention is the compounds of **Claim 12** and methods of using these compounds as pharmaceuticals.

The state of the prior art and the predictability or lack thereof in the art

The state of the prior art, namely pharmacological art, involves screening *in vitro* and *in vivo* to determine if the compounds exhibit desired pharmacological activities, which are then tested for their efficacy on human beings. There is no absolute

predictability even in view of the seemingly high level of skill in the art. The existence of these obstacles establishes that the contemporary knowledge in the art would prevent one of ordinary skill in the art from accepting any therapeutic regimen on its face. The instant claimed invention is highly unpredictable as discussed below.

It is noted that the pharmaceutical art is unpredictable, requiring each embodiment to be individually assessed for physiological activity. *In re Fisher*, 427 F.2d 833, 839, 166 USPQ 18 (CCPA 1970) indicates that the more unpredictable an area is, the more specific enablement is necessary in order to satisfy the statute.

In the instant case, the claimed invention is highly unpredictable since one skilled in the art would recognize that a group of compounds and compositions may provide a treatment for Hepatitis C, but it does not mean that the same group of compounds and compositions may treat and/or all infectious diseases caused by Hepatitis C.

The amount of direction or guidance present and the presence or absence of working examples

There is no direction or guidance provided which supports Applicant's claimed method for treating any and/or all infectious diseases caused by Hepatitis C, as indicated. The direction or guidance present in Applicants' Specification for a method of using the compounds and compositions of Formula I to treat HCV activity and HCV growth is found on pages 117-121. Additional information is found in the background on pp. 1-3.

The breadth of the claims, quantity of experimentation, and level of skill in the art

Claims 13 & 14 are drawn to treating any and/or all infectious diseases caused by Hepatitis C. As mentioned, the compounds of the instant application have potent anti-HCV activity and HCV growth inhibitory effects. However, it cannot be inferred from the data that the compounds would also have activity to combat liver cancer, for example. Although, the hepatitis C virus may make the patient vulnerable to other diseases, there is not evidence that would suggest a compound useful for combating HCV also combats such diseases.

Because of the aforementioned reasons, a person of skill in the art could not practice the claimed invention herein, or a person of skill in the art could practice the claimed invention herein only with undue experimentation and with no assurance of success. **An amendment**, which limits the method of use claims to treating Hepatitis C, would overcome this rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Telephone Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Jason M. Nolan, Ph.D.** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4356** and electronic mail is Jason.Nolan@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (9:00 - 5:30PM). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Joseph M^cKane** can be reached on **(571) 272-0699**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jason M. Nolan, Ph.D.
Examiner
Art Unit 1626



REBECCA ANDERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Joseph K. M^cKane
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626
Date: October 23, 2007